

ROOSEVELT TRIES TO BUY NEGRO VOTE

Louisiana Delegate Says He Was Offered \$1,000 to Desert Taft.

MAKES SWORN CHARGE

Senator Dixon Pronounces His Affidavit "All a Pure Fake."

Chicago, Ill., June 16.—An affidavit charging an attempt to bribe F. H. Cook, a negro delegate to the Republican National Convention from Louisiana, for \$1,000 to desert the Taft forces and vote for Roosevelt, executed by Cook himself, was made public to-night by Director McKinley, of the Taft headquarters. The sworn charge, culminated in a day of bitter verbal conflict between the Taft and Roosevelt forces. The Taft headquarters asserted that Cook, who is a Baptist minister and a bank cashier in Vidalia, Concordia Parish, Louisiana, made his statement before a notary of his own volition. The affidavit read as follows:

"State of Illinois, County of Cook: I, F. H. Cook, being first duly sworn, make oath and say:

"That on Thursday night, the 15th of June, 1912, a gentleman who claimed to be a Mr. Thompson, from Colorado, after being introduced to each other (he and I), after finding out from me that I was a delegate from the Fifth Congressional District of Louisiana, said to me: 'If you will come over with the R. R. crowd here is a thousand dollars, of which, of course, I refused, and at the same time he had the money in his hand and attempted to count it out to me. I make this sworn statement because it has been going the rounds by some irresponsible person that I had agreed to sell out all of which is entirely false upon its face. There are my friends on each side, and we are friendly toward each other, not because I am on one side and they on the other, but because we are all Republicans. All such reports which come out saying that I have or am coming over are untrue. I came from my district to vote for Mr. Taft, and the first and last thing I'll do will be to cast my vote for the renomination of Mr. Taft. I make this affidavit of my own free will and accord."

"Personally appeared, subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of June, 1912.

"M. BELLE CARNAHAN, Notary Public.

"Witnesses: "GEORGE H. JEFFRIES, "FRED MOORE."

Senator Dixon commented upon the affidavit as follows: "I never heard of Cook and I never heard of Thompson. I think it is all a pure fake."

ROOSEVELT SURE TO BE 'A NOMINEE'

(Continued From First Page.)

floor leader to conduct the Roosevelt fight during the convention.

Bound to Be "A Nominee."

Chicago, June 16.—Out of a chaos of claims and counterclaims, reports of a "break" to Roosevelt from the Taft ranks and a declaration by the Taft managers that Colonel Roosevelt had been tempted to "steal" their delegates had met with failure, there came to-night the frank statement by Roosevelt leaders that regardless of what the final round-up of delegates may show, Colonel Roosevelt will leave Chicago a nominee for President.

There will be no bolt, they say, but if there is an attempt to make permanent the temporary roll reported by the national committee the Roosevelt delegates, believing they have a right to act as "representatives of the people," may take matters in their own hands, nominate Mr. Roosevelt in the Coliseum and claim for him the regularity of the Republican party.

If an attempt is made to adopt the temporary report made by the national committee, which denied practically all of our contests, the convention will never get beyond that," declared one of the Roosevelt leaders to-night.

Discounts Talk of Bolt.

Senator Borah, talked of as the Roosevelt candidate for temporary chairman, discounted all talk of a bolt.

Other Roosevelt supporters declared there would be no occasion for a "rump" convention, or for a "convention" within a convention, in the Coliseum. They based their claim upon a reported desertion among the Taft delegates and the belief that the Colonel would control the situation in the convention proper.

The Taft leaders, however, were equally confident that the President would be the regular nominee of his party, and that their delegates would "stick."

The situation continues to hinge upon the action of congressional delegates. They appear to hold the balance of power, and conflicting claims are made of their support. Both sides plainly were anxious over the situation to-night, and neither knew just what could be depended upon. The

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resolution apparently will have to come in the convention itself. It was said to-night that the Roosevelt forces would make their stand in the convention as soon as it meets and is called to order by Chairman Roosevelt, of the national committee. Some of the Roosevelt leaders were in favor of deferring the fight until the question of adopting the temporary roll should arise. This plan was abandoned, it is said, when it became apparent that Senator Root was likely to be chosen as temporary chairman. The Roosevelt adherents frankly admitted that they feared Senator Root's prestige in the convention, and proposed to make their fight over his selection, which in itself will involve the question of the temporary roll.

Fight Will Be On.

As soon as Mr. Roosevelt presents the name of Mr. Root for temporary chairman, the Roosevelt delegates will place another name in nomination. When the California delegation is reached, Governor Hiram Johnson, according to the report, will attempt to cast the entire twenty-six votes of the delegation against the New York Senator. His right to do this will be contested by the Taft delegates from the Fourth California District, seated by the national committee. The vote on the temporary chairmanship usually is cast according to the temporary roll. The Roosevelt adherents do not propose to submit to any such arrangement this year, claiming the national committee is attempting to deliver "stolen goods."

The lines will be drawn at once and the fight will be on.

What the outcome will be, what the Roosevelt leaders will eventually do, remains a matter of conjecture. The prediction was made to-night in some quarters that the convention never would be organized. Sergeant-at-Arms Stone, in the meantime, is making every preparation to quell a disturbance. The police arrangements for the convention are said to have been perfected. In addition to the new-coated force inside the Coliseum, it is said a cordon of police will be thrown about the entire building.

WOULD HAVE SIGHT OF STEAM ROLLER

Chicago, June 16.—William J. Bryan was a centre of attraction in the pre-convention scene to-day, and, though appearing at the headquarters of leaders of a rival party as a newspaper reporter, was given a demonstration by the throng of visitors and delegates.

Mr. Bryan had a personal chat with Theodore Roosevelt late in the day after he had interviewed Senator Dixon, the Roosevelt campaign director and Managing Director McKinley, of the Taft bureau.

As he entered the hotel lobby, elbowing his way through the crowd, some one shouted "Hurrah for Bryan," and the Nebraskaan was given a demonstrative welcome. He was cheered for several minutes, and continuous cries for "speech, speech," came from all parts of the lobby. Mr. Bryan waved his hand to the crowd and remarked to those near him that he had come "merely as a newspaper reporter" and not seeking presidential nomination from a Republican convention.

He came to see "your steam roller," said Mr. Bryan as he shook hands with Congressman McKinley. "Is it anywhere in sight?"

"No, we have laid it aside," said Mr. McKinley, "but would be glad to lend it to you if you would like to have it at Baltimore."

"Oh, no, we Democrats do not need it," Mr. Bryan laughingly responded. "We are going to hold a model convention."

SOME ONE WILL WIN, BUT WHAT 'SOME ONE' CAN'T BE FORETOLD

(Continued From First Page.)

burdens of the campaign over to the Colonel, hoping he will pull them through.

Next-Treason Association Is Nervous. The Near-Treason Association, having completed its labors at a late hour Saturday night by starting by "Sammy" Perkins in the State of Washington contests, took an excursion to a country club, but they were a worried set. They had performed according to plans and were waiting for the actors they have selected to speak Lee lines assigned to them or will decide to do a little impromptu acting of their own when they get in the limelight. They do not know. Nor did they cheer them up any to have Montana man tell them the story of the late Wilbur F. Sanders, of that State, who rode into a town years ago where the citizens were about to have a lynching. Sanders strode into the crowd. "Stop this," he shouted. "Stop this. There has been too much of this high-handed business in this State. I protest. This must not go on. This man must not be hanged in this summary manner. Give him a fair and impartial trial and then hang him."

The Taft men stuck sturdily to their figures. They said at the least Taft has 555 votes, will be named on the first ballot and that Root will be made temporary chairman by a full 600 votes. It being held that some of the Roosevelt delegates will vote for him. Root arrived, bringing with him his well known refrigerating machine and making his own tea whenever approached for his opinion of the situation. Mr. Root was held to contain certain views of President Taft to be presented to the Taft leaders at the proper time. He saw many leaders. They also saw him. That was about the sum total of the meetings, so far as settling anything is concerned. Mr. Root has a speech to make at 10 o'clock Tuesday, a commodious welkin having been provided for that purpose by the committee on arrangements. However, Subbass William Flinn, of the Roosevelt forces, while appreciating highly Mr. Root's abilities as a well-known speaker, was not so sure it would be well to employ Root's talents in that direction. It is the idea of Mr. Flinn to start something in the convention at 10 o'clock Tuesday. Mr. Root's name is submitted to the assembly by Vice President Roosevelt as the national committee's conception of an ideal temporary chairman, and suggest, in a clarion voice, it would be well to have tried and true Roosevelt man in that job, precipitating thereby a struggle that should have definite information in it as to the strength of the two leading candidates. Mr. Flinn's idea has not met with full approval of the other Roosevelt leaders. There is a feeling it would be well to postpone the clash until later in the convention.

Compromise People Want Postponement.

Advocates of a compromise candidate favor postponement. They say the thing to do is to select a man who is a speaker and then take an adjournment, hoping by that time order may begin to show its well-combed head up through chaos, and that there may be found a way to save the Grand Old Man of the West from the ground favor this plan, having adjusted lightning rods and placed themselves in the most conspicuous and lightning-infested spots they can find. One silver-tongued young orator is rehearsing a speech, by which he hopes to "cross of gold and crown of thorn the convention" if the opportunity is offered. Politics, as has been remarked, is an unselfish and gentle pursuit.

The situation is not without its pathos. Consider the dire straits of the Officeholders' Union and the Band Wagon Boys. They are pacing back and forth, wringing their hands and beating their foreheads, and, originally the officeholders and the men who want to hold office were with Taft. Then, from purely patriotic motives, and because they desired to be on the winning side, they shifted to Roosevelt, thinking it might help them subsequently to get on the pay roll, they shifted to Roosevelt. Now they are torn with conflicting emotions, not knowing whether to jump back to Taft, who may win, or stick to Roosevelt, who may lose.

But, sad as is their dilemma, they are enjoying a holy calm when compared to the band wagon boys. They

want to jump. They must jump soon. They do not know where to jump. They buttonhole every newcomer and harass every man who has been on the ground a day. They clamor for information, and they are met with the statement there is none. If they do not land they are lost, and they may be lost anyhow. Time is pretty nearly up with them. They are about to hear the ringing of the last bell. No sadder spectacle has ever been seen at a Republican convention than this concourse of patriotic American citizens, unable to decide as to what particular candidatorial slant their patriotism shall take.

There is much talk of compromise, but it is only talk, largely promoted by three or four citizens, each of whom thinks he would be the perfect solution of all these pressing difficulties. Undoubtedly, if there could be a frank expression of opinion from the Taft leaders and the Roosevelt leaders, aside from the principals, it would be found that 60 or 70 per cent of them favor the abandonment of the two leading candidates and the selection of another man for the sake of the party. There might be fewer Roosevelt men who would talk this way than Taft men, but there would be a considerable showing on both sides. So it may fall out that on Monday night or on Tuesday night, if the Roosevelt forces lose their temporary chairman fight and do not bolt in consequence, there may be a gathering away down in the engine room of the Congress Hotel, where the subject will be discussed openly. Instead of whispered as it is now. The idea is growing. Nothing may come of it, of course, but there are a large number of Republicans who think more of the Republican party than they think of any individual or set of individuals, and some of this kind are in Chicago.

Constant Realignments.

But that is in the future. The facts of the present have not changed since Saturday. Colonel Roosevelt is leading in person and the Taft leaders have stiffened in consequence of his coming. Both sides make glowing claims, and neither side can tell what will happen. There is a constant realignment. Roosevelt men slip out a Taft man now and then and the Taft men have ways of their own for getting even. When night came on Sunday neither side had gained nor lost much. It is still a speculative stand-off, an open proposition. Nobody need be surprised if Taft wins by a handful of votes. Nobody need be surprised if Roosevelt bolts in that case. Nobody need be surprised if Roosevelt wins, in which case the Taft men will do their bolting in the polls. There may be two conventions in the same hall. There may be an inconclusive ballot or two, and a third man proposed and selected. Anything is possible, for conditions defy analysis. They are not subject to the usual tests. The human paradox has projected himself into the fight, and he has created a situation as paradoxical as he is. Wherefore, it is up to everybody to be perfectly calm and await the march of events.

HENEY STIRS IRE OF VIRGINIA MEN

In Voting to Seat Negroes in Their Places Loses Ground for Westerners.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Chicago, Ill., June 16.—The Virginia delegation to the Republican National Convention has established headquarters at the Auditorium Hotel, on Michigan Avenue, just north of the Congress Hotel, where are located Taft and Roosevelt headquarters, as well as the quarters of many of the State delegations. The location places the delegation from the Old Dominion in the midst of the seething political activity, which promises to become more seething before the week is many hours older.

The Virginians have commodious quarters on the second floor of the Auditorium, which affords a fine view of the lake. New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and other Eastern delegations have quarters on this floor. All the members of the Virginia delegation had not arrived at 8 o'clock this evening, but were expected before bedtime. L. P. Summers, who arrived last Thursday, was on hand to greet the callers who came to sound the delegates on dark horses and other things.

The delegation stands twenty-two for Taft, with the two votes from the Fifth District in doubt, but probably for Roosevelt. Mr. Summers and Col. James F. Browning had an enlightening discussion on the advisability of nominating Taft or Roosevelt. Mr. Browning taking the Roosevelt side. D. Lawrence Groner is one of the leaders of the Taft delegation saying the President is the strongest man the party could nominate.

Senator Catron and Dr. Dougherty, of Scott county, arrived this afternoon. They are Roosevelt adherents.

Lively Tilt.

The Virginians had a lively tilt this afternoon with delegates from Southern California over the Taft-Browning issue, the Pacific coast men being radical partisans of the Colonel. The Westerners made no headway in pleading the cause of T. R. as Francis J. Honey, of San Francisco, who held a proxy, embittered the Virginians by voting to unseat them and seat negroes in their places. This action by Honey stirred the ire of the Virginia crowd, which is not in a mood to accept any such proposition. In the discussion waxed, and the California crowd finally left with the statement that under no circumstances would they vote for Taft.

The Virginia delegation will meet at its headquarters at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning to make arrangements for convention committees and to transact other business preliminary to the opening of the convention on Tuesday.

Burglary Is Reported.

W. Henry Smith & Sons yesterday reported to the police of the Second District that their shop at 1215 St. John Street was entered Saturday night and a large quantity of tools stolen.

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"MISSTATEMENTS CORRECTED"

The Truth About the Electric Light and Power Situation in Fredericksburg.

An Editorial Leader From The Fredericksburg "Daily Star" of June 6, 1912.

MISSTATEMENTS CORRECTED.

Richmond seems to be having something of a contest anent the application of the Richmond and Henrico Railway Company for a franchise to do a heating, lighting and power business in that city in competition with the Richmond Railway and Power Company. We are not concerned with this fight or its outcome. But in the columns of our esteemed contemporary, The Times-Dispatch, we find statements in reference to Fredericksburg which are not in accord with the facts, and we feel that we should not be doing justice to our city to let these statements go unchallenged.

These statements were probably made without sufficient information on the part of those who made them, and do injustice to Fredericksburg. One of these statements is as follows:

Competition is not good for Richmond, says the Virginia Railway and Power Company. But the same interests have asked for, and secured, a franchise to sell light and power in Fredericksburg in competition with a company already doing business.

And again:

In Fredericksburg a widow woman furnished electricity to the city. The Virginia Railway and Power Company bought the water rights of the Rappahannock River and entered into competition with this widow, with the result that they have put her out of business.

Prior to 1900 a small electric plant was built in Fredericksburg under a contract with the city and to light the streets of the city. In the year 1900 this plant was sold under foreclosure proceedings, and was purchased by Charles R. Sickles, of New York, and conveyed the same in trust to secure Mrs. E. C. L. Ficklen a debt. In 1901 this last trust was foreclosed, and Mrs. Ficklen became the purchaser of the electric property at a public sale. Mrs. Ficklen afterwards organized the Rappahannock Electric Light and Power Company, which conducted the electric business. The city built its own plant to light the streets.

The Rappahannock Electric Light and Power Company extended its business from time to time in a moderate way. This company has never had a franchise from the city of Fredericksburg, and has none now, although an application for a franchise is at present pending before the City Council. Its water rights are limited, and any great plant development is impossible unless by an addition of an auxiliary steam plant.

About 1905 Mr. Joseph Swift, of Wilmington, Del., bought the Fredericksburg Water Power Company, which owns practically the entire flow of the river above Fredericksburg, except the limited power owned by the Bridgewater Flour Mills, and Mr. Swift organized the Fredericksburg Power Company and made extensive surveys, but no development. In 1907 the stock of the Fredericksburg Power Company, owned then by Mr. Swift, was acquired, not by the Richmond Railway and Power Company, but by the Richmond and Chesapeake Bay Railway Company, and the new interests applied to the Council of Fredericksburg for a charter, and secured a charter to do a general heat, light and power business in the city. The Fredericksburg Power Company then purchased additional rights above the city; it replaced the old wooden dam at Fredericksburg by a new concrete and steel structure 1,100 feet long. It has constructed within the city of Fredericksburg a concrete flume, and is completing now a modern, up-to-date power-house, second to none in Virginia in its stability and in its appointments, and has just distributed through the city poles to be erected, and will shortly complete its system.

It has spent in this community a very large sum of money and as yet it has received no return on its expenditure, because it has sold no current, fixed no rates, and has offered no service to the public. So, therefore, it is impossible that the statement above quoted from the esteemed Times-Dispatch could be true.

Again, in seeking its franchise from the Council it neither asked for nor received any rights or privileges to use the lines, poles or other appliances of the Rappahannock Electric Light and Power Company, nor has it in any way entered into competition with the older company, which has been operating without a franchise.

The Fredericksburg Power Company's franchise permits and requires it to do a general light, heat and power business over the entire city, serving every one within the city who desires its service, and concurrently with its franchise the Council approved its pole and wire plan, which practically covers the entire city.

The new company was both organized and built with the purpose in view of building up the industrial life of the city, bringing new factories to the community and as a motive power for an electric railroad, and it is the declared policy of the new company to give Fredericksburg and this section of Virginia a service second to none in the State, or, indeed, second to none on the Atlantic Seaboard.

The people of this city and section are looking to the completion of this company's work as the realization of the city's dream of the past, of Fredericksburg's being a great manufacturing centre, with its superior climate, its fine water, its intelligent native labor, its cheap power and its unrivaled power and transportation service, enjoying as it does its location on the splendid lines of railroads passing through the city and its location on the Rappahannock River, with its water transportation and connection with all the cities of the Atlantic Seaboard.

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MEN WANTED

On Friday, June 7, a number of employees of the Boston Elevated Railway Company left their positions without notice and went on a strike, which now exists. These represented almost entirely the newer, younger, more inexperienced men. A large majority of the men, including nearly all of the older, responsible men, remained with the company, and have faithfully carried it in operating its car service, which has been well maintained over its entire system.

The company wants at once suitable, experienced motormen and conductors to fill the places of men who have left the service, and offers attractive, permanent employment not only to these, but to other worthy persons who can qualify.

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